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ABSTRACT

The Health Training Improvement Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-519) is an extension and expansion of the Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act of 1966 and the Health Manpower Act of 1968. The purpose of this report is to provide some background on the Health Training Improvement Act of 1970 and to summarize its major provisions. Section 1 briefly discussed the Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act of 1966 and the Health Manpower Act of 1968. Section 2 describes legislative action on the Health Training Improvement Act of 1970 during the 91st Congress. Section 3 summarizes the major provisions of the Act. (Author)

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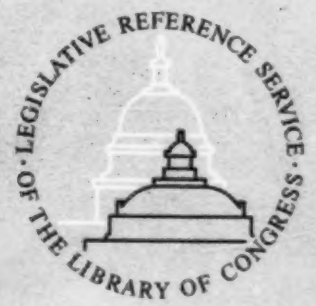

THE HEALTH TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1970 (P.L. 91-519)

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THE HEALTH TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1970 (P.L. 91-519)

Introduction

The Health Training Improvement Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-519) is an extension and expansion of the Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act of 1966 and the Health Manpower Act of 1968. The purpose of this report is to provide some background on the Health Training Improvement Act of 1970 and to summarize its major provisions.

Section one briefly discusses the Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act of 1966 and the Health Manpower Act of 1968. Section two describes legislative action on the Health Training Improvement Act of 1970 during the 91st Congress. Section three summarizes the major provisions of the Act.

I. Previous Legislation

The Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act of 1966 was enacted on November 3, 1966 (P.L. 89-751). The Act authorized a program of grants "specifically designed to increase the number of allied health personnel to provide essential health services and to improve and expand programs for the education and training of such personnel."[1/] Allied health personnel are professional, technical, and supportive workers who assist physicians, dentists, and other health professionals. Such individuals may be, for example, medical technologists, dieticians, nutritionists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech pathologists, opticians, or physicians' assistants.

The Act, the first piece of Federal legislation specifically designed for this purpose, authorized grants of assistance to allied health training centers for:

(1) Construction of teaching facilities;

(2) Improvement of educational facilities;

(3) Advanced traineeships for preparation of teachers, supervisors, administrators, or allied health specialists; and

(4) Development of new methods.

1/ House Report 91-1266, 91st Congress, 2d Session: 3.

The programs were authorized through June 30, 1969, and were extended for one year by Title III of the Health Manpower Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-490). Title III also broadened the authority for the developmental grant program and required the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to submit a progress report to the President and Congress on the Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act, as amended.

II. The Health Training Improvement Act of 1970

A number of bills were introduced during the 91st Congress to extend and expand legislation for the allied health professions. The major bills included: H.R. 13100, introduced by Mr. Rogers of Florida on July 24, 1969; S. 3586, introduced by Mr. Yarborough (for himself and 13 others) on March 12, 1970; H.R. 16808, introduced by Mr. Staggers (for himself and Mr. Springer) on April 7, 1970; and S. 3718, introduced by Mr. Javits (for himself and 5 others) on April 15, 1970. Both H.R. 16808 and S. 3718 contained the Administration's proposals for legislation for the allied health professions and were introduced at the Administration's request. S. 3586 and S. 3718 were referred to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. H.R. 13100 and H.R. 16808 were referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

On May 19 and 20, 1970, the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare held hearings on S. 3586 and S. 3718. At the same time, the Subcommittee also held hearings on S. 2753, the Veterans in Allied Health Professions and Occupations Act of 1969, which was introduced by Mr. Javits and Mr. Prouty on July 31, 1969.

The Committee on Labor and Public Welfare reported S. 3586 with amendments on July 6, 1970 (Senate Report 91-1002, 91st Congress, 2d Session).

The amended version of S. 3586 contained a provision for special financial assistance to new health professions schools. Other provisions would:

> "extend for 5 years (fiscal year 1971 through fiscal year 1975) the authorities of part G of title VII of the Public Health Service Act for (1) construction of teaching facilities for training centers for allied health professions, (2) basic improvement (formula) grants for training centers for allied health professions, (3) advanced traineeships for allied health personnel, and (4) allied health developmental grants.
>
> "replace the present special improvement grant authority of part G with new special project authority for assistance to programs of training or retraining of allied personnel, would separate the special improvement grant from its present dependence on the basic improvement grant, and would significantly broaden the purposes for which special projects could be made.

"add new authorities for aid to allied health students through loans, scholarships, and work-study programs, and a liberalized veterans educational assistance allowance.

"authorize a new program of grants and contracts for identifying individuals with potential for education or training in the allied health professions--including returning veterans with experience in health field--and encourage them to undertake training in the allied health professions.

"require the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to prepare and submit to the Congress, prior to July 1, 1971, a report identifying the major problems associated with licensure, certification, and other qualifications for practice or employment of health personnel, together with his recommendations for steps to be taken toward the solutions of those problems.

"authorize a wholly new program of assistance to medical and dental schools (and their affiliated teaching hospitals or dental clinics) which are in acute financial distress under a new part H of title VII of the PHS Act. There would be created a new emergency 1-year $100 million program of special project grants for medical and dental schools in financial distress attributable in substantial degree to such institution having responded affirmatively to national health policy established by Congress."2/

The Subcommittee on Public Health and Welfare of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce held hearings on H.R. 13100 and H.R. 16808 on June 8, 1970. On June 30, 1970, the Committee reported out an amended version of H.R. 13100 (House Report 91-1266, 91st Congress, 2d Session). The Committee summarized the major provisions of H.R. 13100, as reported

2/ Senate Report 91-1002, 91st Congress, 2d Session: 1-2.

in the following way:

> "H.R. 13100 would extend for 3 years (fiscal year 1971 through fiscal year 1973) the allied health training authorities of part G of title VII of the Public Health Service Act.
>
> "The bill would separate the special improvement grants from their present dependence on the basic improvement grants and would significantly broaden the purposes for which special project grants could be made.
>
> "This bill would extend the institutional eligibility for participation in the advanced traineeship program to include not only training centers for the allied health professions but also other agencies, organizations, and institutions with the capability of accomplishing the purposes of those programs. The bill would also authorize special project grants to such agencies, organizations, and institutions."3/

The Senate debated S. 3586 on July 13, 1970. The bill was passed with only one amendment: the provision for veterans educational allowances for students of the allied health professions was deleted. Although the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, from which S. 3586 was reported, has jurisdiction over veterans legislation, the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, from which the House version of the allied health bill was reported, does not. During debate on the floor, it was agreed that the House would have difficulty considering S. 3586 if it included such an amendment.

On July 30, 1970 the House debated H.R. 13100. It passed the bill by a record vote of 343 yeas to 1 nay. The House adopted the Committee's bill without an amendment.

3/ House Report 91-1226, 91st Congress, 2d Session: 3.

A conference report on the Health Training Improvement Act of 1970 was submitted on October 8, 1970 (House Report 91-1588, 91st Congress, 2d Session). The House agreed to the conference report on October 13, 1970. The Senate agreed to it on October 14, 1970. The Act was signed by the President on November 2, 1970 (P.L. 91-519).

III. Summary of Provisions

Title I--Section 101:

Section 101 amends the authority for institutional (formula) grants to new schools of the health professions (section 771 of the Public Health Service Act) to establish the eligibility of new schools of the health professions for these grants in the year before they admit their first class.

Section 102:

Medical and dental schools in dire financial distress are currently eligible for financial assistance under the special project grant section of the Public Health Service Act. Section 102 provides that any funds appropriated for these grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1971 are to remain available until June 30, 1972.

The Secretary will determine the need for emergency financial assistance and will submit a report to Congress, no later than June 30, 1971, outlining his findings and recommendations regarding the need for such assistance.

Title II--Section 201:

Grants for the construction of teaching facilities for allied health professions personnel are authorized through June 30, 1973. Funds authorized for this purpose are:

$20 million for fiscal year 1971;
30 million for fiscal year 1972; and
40 million for fiscal year 1973.

Section 202:

Basic improvement grants are authorized through June 30, 1973. Such grants are made to colleges, junior colleges, and universities which qualify as training centers for the allied health professions. Grants are made for eligible curriculums and for eligible students enrolled in such curriculums. Allied health curriculums eligible to participate in this program are:

Baccalaureate Degree and Above	Associate Degree or Equivalent
Dental hygienist*	Dental hygienist*
	Dental assistant
	Dental laboratory technician
Dietitian	Dietary technician
	Inhalation therapy technician
Medical record librarian	Medical record technician
Medical technologist*	Medical laboratory technician
Occupational therapist	Occupational therapy assistant
Optometric technologist*	Optometric Technician*
	Ophthalmic assistant
Physical therapist	
Radiologic technologist	X-ray technician
Sanitarian	Sanitarian technician

*Specified by law; all others by regulation.

Such funds are used to improve the quality of curriculums, expand training programs, and otherwise strengthen eligible allied health educational programs. Funds authorized for these purposes are:

$15 million for fiscal year 1971;
15 million for fiscal year 1972; and
15 million for fiscal year 1973.

This section also authorizes funds for special improvement grants through June 30, 1973. These grants are used to assist allied health professions training centers in projects to provide, maintain, or improve the center's specialized function.

Funds authorized for these purposes are:

$15 million for fiscal year 1971;
20 million for fiscal year 1972; and
30 million for fiscal year 1973.

Section 202 authorizes grants and contracts for special projects to train or retrain allied health personnel. Such grants and contracts are authorized through June 30, 1973. Special projects may include:

> "(A) planning, establishing, demonstrating, or developing new programs, or modifying or expanding existing programs, including interdisciplinary training programs;
> "(B) developing, demonstrating, or establishing special programs, or adapting existing programs, to reach special groups such as returning veterans with experience in a health field, the economically or culturally deprived, or persons reentering any of the allied health fields;
> "(C) developing, demonstrating, or evaluating new or improved teaching methods or curriculums;

"(D) developing, demonstrating, or establishing interrelationships among institutions which will facilitate the training, retraining, or utilization of allied health manpower;

"(E) developing, demonstrating, or evaluating new types of health manpower;

"(F) developing, demonstrating, or evaluating techniques for appropriate recognition (including equivalency and proficiency testing mechanisms) of previously acquired training or experience; and

"(G) developing, demonstrating, or evaluating new or improved means of recruitment, retraining, or retention of allied health manpower."

Funds authorized for these purposes are:

$10 million for fiscal year 1971;
20 million for fiscal year 1972; and
30 million for fiscal year 1973.

Section 203:

Grants for traineeships for the advanced training of allied health professions personnel are authorized through June 30, 1973. Such grants are awarded to public or private nonprofit agencies, organizations, and institutions that in turn make awards to eligible students who are taking advanced training to become teachers, supervisors, administrators, or specialists. Funds authorized for this purpose are:

$8 million for fiscal year 1971;
10 million for fiscal year 1972; and
12 million for fiscal year 1973.

Section 204:

This section authorizes four programs to encourage the full utilization of educational talent for the allied health professions. Funds are granted to eligible public or private nonprofit agencies, institutions, or organizations. The programs are authorized through June 30, 1973.

A. The first program authorizes the Secretary to make grants or enter into contracts "to encourage the full utilization of educational talent for allied health professions." Returning veterans with medical experience are specifically mentioned as an example of potential "educational talent." Individuals are encouraged by this program to undertake training or education in the allied health professions. Funds authorized for these purposes are:

$750,000 for fiscal year 1971;
1,000,000 for fiscal year 1972; and
1,250,000 for fiscal year 1973.

B. A scholarship program is authorized for students and for allied health personnel who are retraining in occupations which are considered to need development and expansion. Scholarships will be awarded only to individuals who are in exceptional financial need. The amount cannot

exceed $2,000 plus $600 for each dependent (not in excess of three) for any year. Funds authorized for this purpose are:

$4 million for fiscal year 1971;
5 million for fiscal year 1972; and
6 million for fiscal year 1973.

C. Grants are authorized for work-study programs to train or retrain allied health personnel. When selecting students or trainees to participate in work-study programs preference must be given to members of low-income families. Funds authorized for this purpose are:

$2 million for fiscal year 1971;
4 million for fiscal year 1972; and
6 million for fiscal year 1973.

D. A loan program for students of the allied health professions is authorized. The maximum amount of the loan per student in any one year is $1,500. The aggregate of the loans for all years for any one student may not exceed $6,000. Students must need the loan to pursue a full or part-time course of study. Good academic standing must be maintained.

Loans are repayable over a ten-year period which begins one year after the recipient ceases his studies. Repayment may be postponed for a period not to exceed three years if the recipient is on active duty in the armed services or is a Peace Corps volunteer. If the recipient pursues

a baccalaureate, associate, or advanced degree, repayment may be postponed for a period not to exceed five years.

Up to 50 percent of a loan (plus interest) can be canceled at the rate of 10 percent per year of full-time employment in an allied health profession, if the recipient is employed in a public or private nonprofit agency, institution, or organization, or employed by a physician or dentist located in a rural area. For loan cancellation purposes, service in a rural area must be approved by the local county health authority. Recipients may cancel an additional 50 percent of the loan (plus interest) at the rate of 15 percent per year of full-time employment in an allied health profession, if the recipient is employed in a public or private nonprofit hospital or health service facility or agency which has a substantial shortage of such personnel. The interest rate on the loan is 3 percent per year. Funds authorized for the Federal contribution to student loan funds are:

$3,500,000 for fiscal year 1971;
5,000,000 for fiscal year 1972; and
10,000,000 for fiscal year 1973.

Additional funds, as may be needed, are authorized through June 30, 1976 to enable students who have received a loan for any academic year before July 1, 1973 to complete their education.

Section 205:

Provisions in this section direct the Secretary to conduct a study of allied health programs under the Public Health Service Act and under laws administered by the Commissioner of Education, to determine their adequacy and effectiveness.

This section also provides an advanced funding provision.

In addition, the Secretary is required to submit a report to Congress not later than July 1, 1971 which outlines the major problems associated with licensure, certification, and other qualifications for practice or employment of health personnel. Summaries of the activities of Federal agencies, professional organizations, and other instrumentalities which are directed toward solving these problems are to be included in the report.